(c) whether all State capitals of the country have been inter-linked ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Itanagar. Gangtok, Dehradun and Shimla are the only State capitals without air services by scheduled airlines. Other State capitals have direct or indirect air link with Delhi.

(b) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Same as (b) above.

Representation from Trade Unions

2187. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government employees who retired in the month of February, March, April, 1996 could not get the full pensionary benefits because their pension was fixed on the basis of the pay fixed or drawn at the time of their retirement;

(b) whether Government have received any representations from various Trade Unions or individuals for fixation of pension on the basis of the pay last drawn instead of last ten months average; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to remove the anomaly and by when orders to this effect are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) Vide O.M. No. 45/86/97-P and PW (A)-Part-I dated 18.10.1999 issued by Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare, Government has already amended the existing rules

to protect the penisonary benefits of Central Government employees governed by Central Civil Service (Pension) Rules, 1972 and who had retired during the period from 1st January to 30th September, 1996.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Clearance of wages of PSU workers

2188. SHRIN.R. DASARI:
SHRIVV. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allotted some funds to clear the outstanding salaries and wages of the workers in Central Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the outstanding dues of the workers, PSU-wise according to the latest available data and how much is expected to be cleared by the allotted funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) and (b) Government has been providing budgetary support to sick and loss making Central Public Sector Undertakings to meet expenditure on salaries and wages, etc. The total outstanding dues, including salaries and wages of Central Public Sector Undertakings, were about Rs. 1905 crore as on December 31, 2002. Government is taking appropriate decisions to clear these liabilities keeping in view the recommendations of the Group of Ministers.

FDI in R and D

2189. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has directed the department of industrial policy and promotion and the Ministry of Finance to introduce policy measures to attract foreign direct investment in research and development;